

Testimony of Peter Millman
JOINT PUBLIC HEARING
CGA Transportation Committee
CGA Environment Committee

March 11, 2022

In SUPPORT of Senate Bill 4: An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act and House Bill 5039: An Act Concerning Medium and Heavy Duty Truck Standards

Honored Co-Chairs Senator Cohen and Representative Gresko, Senator Haskell and Representative Lemar, and Distinguished Members of the Environment and Transportation Committees:

My name is Peter Millman. I am a resident of Mansfield, sit on the Mansfield Sustainability Committee, and am a member of the boards of both Eastern CT Green Action and People's Actions for Clean Energy.

In 2006, President George Bush said "America is addicted to oil". Like all addictions, it is really hard to break the habit. Like all habits, it's easy to find excuses for putting off the day when you make a change.

But both of these bills are common sense attempts to reduce transportation carbon emissions in Connecticut, improve the health of our state's residents (which will save individuals, businesses, and taxpayers tons of money), and decrease the impact of fossil fuel price fluctuations on the finances of both individuals and businesses.

The transition to a clean transportation system will undoubtedly be inconvenient and perhaps even disruptive for some businesses. Yet the gradual change that will result from these bills give existing businesses time to adjust to a new economic reality and in fact open new business opportunities. Let's be clear, change is still occurring slowly. We're still crawling, when we need to start walking and then running toward a new, clean economy.

We can do this. We can end our addiction to fossil fuels. Please pass this legislation and then move on to the next stage of transitioning to a clean energy economy. As Bill McKibben has said, "Winning slowly is the same as losing", and at the moment, we are winning way too slowly.

Thank you.

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